



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of

FRAAS et al.

Serial No. 08/835,419

Art Unit: 1744
1512

Filed: April 9, 1997

Examiner: T. McMahon

For: PRETREATMENT PROCESS TO REMOVE OXYGEN FROM COAL EN ROUTE TO
A COAL PYROLYSIS PROCESS AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY
OF THE HYDROCARBON LIQUID PRODUCT

RESPONSE

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 24, 1998, I hereby
amend the application as follows:

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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claim

21. Allowance of the other claims is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-14, 16-19, 22 and 23 describe unique
features that are patentable over Selep et al. Claims 5, 8, 10,
15 and 20 are also patentable over Selep.

Claim 1 describes a pretreatment vessel for holding a bed of
coal particles, an enclosure for preventing air from contacting
the bed of coal particles, and a very low oxygen sweep gas or a
vacuum for removing the oxygen released from the heated coal
particles in the pretreatment region.

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